

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending. Applicants acknowledge the withdrawal of the rejection of the last Office Action. In view of the following remarks, Applicants submit that this application is allowable. Reconsideration of claims 1-19 is respectfully requested.

Contrary to what is stated on page 3 of the Office Action, the changes to 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by the AIPA do apply as the application was filed January 19, 2001 which is after the effective date, November 29, 2000, of the AIPA.

I. REPLY TO REJECTIONS

On page 3, Item 6 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,402,888 to Doublet et al. (hereinafter "Doublet"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that Doublet fails to disclose paper based on a fiber composition, the paper comprising at least one multitone effect watermark, wherein the watermark, when observed in transmitted light, has a set of pale zones arranged in the manner of a screened image, as recited in claim 1.

Doublet discloses a paper comprising a first paper layer 3 and a second paper layer 5 where the second paper layer 5 has localized thinner regions 8. The two layers 3 and 5 are joined together then dried (see Abstract, and Figs. 2-4).

As disclosed in claim 8 and Fig. 7 of Doublet, for example, the thinner regions 8 are in the form of simple geometric motif and are flat regions of rectangular, round or elliptical shapes. Nowhere in Doublet is it disclosed that the watermark has a set of pale zones arranged in the manner of a screened image, as recited in claim 1. A screened image comprises screening features such as, among others, the shape of dots and screen angle which would result from screening processes.

Therefore, Doublet fails to anticipate claim 1. Claims 2, 4 and 5, which depend from claim 1, are likewise distinguishable over the applied reference for at least the reasons

discussed above and for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 is respectfully requested.

On page 4, Item 8 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3 and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Doublet in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,916,416 to Fedrigoni et al. (hereinafter "Fedrigoni"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

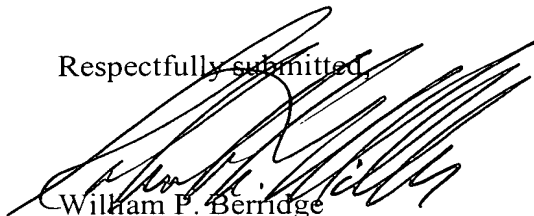
Applicants respectfully submit that Doublet cannot be applied to reject claims 1, 3 and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(c) because the application and the reference were, at the time the invention was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to, the same person. Doublet is assigned to Arjo Wiggins, which is the assignee of the application. Further, for the reasons discussed in the reply to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), Doublet, if a valid reference and applicable under 35 U.S.C. §103, would not suggest the invention. Fedrigoni fails to suggest the feature of claims 1, 3 and 15-19 as it obtains watermarks or patterns as shown in Figs. 9-12 which illustrate papers with a "pinstripe" effect. Fedrigoni is silent about the above-described screening features and cannot remedy the deficiencies of Doublet. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 15-19 is respectfully requested.

II. CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-19 are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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